

# SK I

The dogmatist is sure of every thing, and the *skeptick* believes nothing. *Watts's Logic.*  
**SKEPTICAL.** *adj.* [from *skeptick*.] Doubtful; pretending to universal doubt.  
 May the Father of mercies confirm the *skeptical* and wavering minds, and so prevent us that stand fast, in all our doings, and further us with his continual help. *Bentley.*  
**SKEPTICISM.** *n. f.* [*skeptisme*, French, from *skeptick*.] Universal doubt; pretence or profession of universal doubt.  
 I laid by my natural diffidence and *skepticism* for a while, to take up that dogmatick way. *Dryden.*  
**SKETCH.** *n. f.* [*schœma*, Latin.] An outline; a rough draught; a first plan.  
 I shall not attempt a character of his present majesty, having already given an imperfect *sketch* of it. *Addison.*  
 As the lightest *sketch*, if justly trac'd,  
 Is by ill colouring but the more disgrac'd,  
 So by false learning is good sense defac'd. *Pope.*  
**TO SKETCH.** *v. n.* [from the noun.]  
 1. To draw, by tracing the outline.  
 If a picture is daubed with many glaring colours, the vulgar eye admires it; whereas he judges very contemptuously of some admirable design *sketched* out only with a black pencil, though by the hand of Raphael. *Watts's Logic.*  
 2. To plan, by giving the first or principal notion.  
 The reader I'll leave in the midst of silence, to contemplate those ideas which I have only *sketch'd*, and which every man must finish for himself. *Dryden's Duress.*  
**SKEWER.** *n. f.* [*skere*, Danish.] A wooden or iron pin, used to keep meat in form.  
 Sweet breeds and collops were with *skewers* prick'd about the sides. *Dryden's Iliad.*  
 From his rug the *skewer* he takes,  
 And on the stick ten equal notches makes. *Swift.*  
 I once may overlook,  
 A *skewer* sent to table by my cook. *King.*  
 Send up meat well stuck with *skewers*, to make it look round; and an iron *skewer*, when rightly employed, will make it look handfomer. *Swift's Directions to the Cook.*  
**TO SKEWER.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To fasten with *skewers*.  
**SKIFF.** *n. f.* [*skuse*, French; *scapha*, Lat.] A small light boat.  
 If in two *skiffs* of cork, a loadstone and steel be placed within the orb of their activities, the one doth not move, the other standing still; but both steer into each other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
 In a poor *skiff* he pass'd the bloody main,  
 Chock'd with the slaughter'd bodies of his train. *Dryden.*  
 On Garway cliffs  
 A savage race by shipwreck fed,  
 Lie waiting for the founder'd *skiffs*,  
 And strip the bodies of the dead. *Swift.*  
**SKILFUL.** *adj.* [*skill* and *ful*.] Knowing; qualified with skill; possessing any art; dexterous; able.  
 His father was a man of Tyre, *skilful* to work in gold and silver. *2 Chron. ii. 14.*  
 They shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are *skilful* of lamentation, to wailing. *Amos v. 16.*  
 Will Vaser is *skilful* at finding out the ridiculous side of a thing, and placing it in a new light. *Tatler.*  
 Say, Stella, feel you no content,  
 Reflecting on a life well spent;  
 Your *skilful* hand employ'd to save  
 Despairing wretches from the grave:  
 And then supporting with your store  
 Those whom you dragg'd from death before. *Swift.*  
 Instructors should not only be *skilful* in those sciences which they teach; but have skill in the method of teaching, and patience in the practice. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*  
**SKILFULLY.** *adv.* [from *skilful*.] With skill; with art; with uncommon ability; dextrously.  
 As soon as he came near me, in fit distance, with much fury, but with fury *skilfully* guided, he ran upon me. *Sidney.*  
 Ulysses builds a ship with his own hands, as *skilfully* as a shipwright. *Broome.*  
**SKILFULNESS.** *n. f.* [from *skilful*.] Art; ability; dextrousness.  
 He fed them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the *skilfulness* of his hands. *Psalms lxxviii. 72.*  
**SKILL.** *n. f.* [*skil*, Islandick.]  
 1. Knowledge of any practice or art; readiness in any practice; knowledge; dexterity; artfulness.  
 Skill in the weapon is nothing without fact. *Shakespeare.*  
 You have  
 As little *skill* to fear, as I have purpose  
 To put you to't. *Shakespeare.*  
 Oft nothing profits more  
 Than self-esteem grounded on just and right,  
 Well manag'd; of that *skill* the more thou know'st,  
 The more the will acknowledge thee her head. *Milton.*  
 I will from wondrous principles ordain  
 A race unlike the first, and try my *skill* again. *Dryden.*

# SKI

Phocion the Athenian general, then ambassador from the state, by his great wisdom and *skill* at negotiations, diverted Alexander from the conquest of Athens, and restored the Athenians to his favour. *Swift.*  
 2. Any particular art.  
 Learned in one *skill*, and in another kind of learning unskilful. *Hester.*  
**TO SKILL.** *v. n.* [*skilia*, Islandick.]  
 1. To be knowing in; to be dextrous at.  
 They that *skil* it not of heavenly matter,  
 All that they know not, envy or admire. *Spenser.*  
 The overfears were all that could *skill* of instruments of music.  
 One man of wisdom, experience, learning, and direction, may judge better in those things that he can *skil* of, than ten thousand others that be ignorant. *Watts's Logic.*  
 2. [*Skilia*, Islandick, signifies to distinguish.] To differ; to make difference; to interest; to matter. Not in use.  
 Whether the commandments of God in scripture be general or special, it *skillet* not. *Hester.*  
 What *skillet* it, if a bag of stones or gold  
 About thy neck do drown thee? raise thy head,  
 Take stars for money; stars not to be told,  
 By any art: yet to be purchas'd.  
 None is so waulful as the scraping dame,  
 She loathes three for one; her foul, rest, fame. *Horace.*  
 He intending not to make a summer business of it, but a resolute war, without term prefixed, until he had recovered France, it *skillet* not much when he began the war, especially having Calais at his back where he might winter. *Bacon.*  
**SKILLED.** *adj.* [from *skill*.] Knowing; dextrous; acquainted with.  
 Of these nor *skilled* nor studious. *Milton.*  
 Moses, in all the Egyptian arts was *skilled*,  
 When heav'nly power that chosen vessel fill'd. *Penham.*  
 He must be very little *skilled* in the world, who thinks that a voluble tongue shall accompany only a good understanding.  
**SKILLESS.** *adj.* [from *skill*.] Wanting art. Not in use.  
 Nor have I seen  
 More that I may call men than you:  
 How features are abroad I'm *skilless* of. *Shakespeare.*  
 Jealously what might befall your travel,  
 Being *skilless* in these parts; which to a stranger  
 Unguided and unfriended, often prove  
 Rough and unhopitable. *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.*  
 Thy wit, that ornament to shape and love,  
 Mithapen in the conduct of them both,  
 Like powder in a *skilless* soldier's flask  
 Is set on fire. *Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.*  
**SKILLET.** *n. f.* [*seueltette*, French.] A small kettle or boiler.  
 When light-wing'd toys  
 Of feather'd Cupid foil with wanton dullness  
 My speculative and offic'd instruments,  
 Let house-wives make a *skillet* of my helm,  
 And all indign and base adversities  
 Make head against my estimation. *Shakespeare's Othello.*  
 Break all the wax, and in a kettle or *skillet* set it over a soft fire. *Mortimer's Englishman.*  
**SKILT.** *n. f.* [A word used by *Cleaveland*, of which I know not either the etymology or meaning.]  
 Smcitymus! ha! what art?  
 Syriack? Or Arabick? Or Welsh? What *skilt*?  
 Ape all the bricklayers that Babel built. *Cleaveland.*  
**TO SKIM.** *v. a.* [properly to *seum*, from *seum*, French.]  
 1. To clear off from the upper part, by passing a vessel a little below the surface.  
 My coz Tom, or his coz Mary,  
 Who hold the plough or *skim* the dairy,  
 My fav'rite books, and pictures sell. *Prior.*  
 2. To take by skimming.  
 She boils in kettles must of wine, and *skims*  
 With leaves the dregs that overflow the brims.  
 His principal studies were after the works of Titian, whose cream he has *skimm'd*. *Dryden's Duress.*  
 The surface of the sea is covered with its bubbles, while it rises, which they *skim* off into their boats, and afterwards separate in pots. *Addison.*  
 Whilome I've seen her *skim* the cloated cream,  
 And press from spongy curds the milky stream. *Gay.*  
 3. To brush the surface slightly; to pass very near the surface.  
 Nor seeks in air her humble flight to raise,  
 Content to *skim* the surface of the seas. *Dryden.*  
 The swallow *skims* the river's wat'ry face. *Dryden.*  
 A winged eastern blast just *skimming* o'er  
 The ocean's brow, and sinking on the shore. *Prior.*  
 4. To cover superficially. Improper.  
 Dang'rous flats in secret ambush lay,  
 Where the false tides *skim* o'er the cover'd land,  
 And scamen with dissembled depths betray. *Dryden.*

# SKI

**TO SKIM.** *v. n.* To pass lightly; to glide along.  
 Thin airy shapes o'er the furrows rise,  
 A dreadful scene! and *skim* before his eyes. *Addison.*  
 When Ajax strives some rock's vast weight to throw,  
 The line too labours, and the words move slow;  
 Not to when swift Camilla scours the plain,  
 Flies o'er the unbending corn, and *skims* along the main. *Pope.*  
 Such as have active spirits, who are ever *skimming* over the surface of things with a volatile spirit, will fix nothing in their memory. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*  
 They *skim* over a science in a very superficial survey, and never lead their disciples into the depths of it. *Watts.*  
 The boat, light *skimming*, stretch'd his oary wings. *Thomf.*  
**SKIMBLESKAMBLE.** *adj.* [A cant word formed by reduplication from *skamble*.] Wandering; wild.  
 A couching lion and a ramping cat,  
 And such a deal of *skimblefamble* stuff,  
 As puts me from my faith. *Shakespeare.*  
**SKIMMER.** *n. f.* [from *skim*.] A shallow vessel with which the scum is taken off.  
 Wash your wheat in three or four waters, stirring it round; and with a *skimmer*, each time, take off the light. *Mortimer.*  
**SKIMMILK.** *n. f.* [*skim* and *milk*.] Milk from which the cream has been taken.  
 Then cheese was brought: says Slouch, this e'en shall roll;  
 'Tis his *skimmilk*, and therefore it shall go. *King.*  
**SKIN.** *n. f.* [*kind*, Danish.]  
 1. The natural covering of the flesh. It consists of the *cuticle*, outward skin, or scarf skin, which is thin and insensible, and the *cutis*, or inner skin, extremely sensible.  
 The body is confum'd to nothing, the *skin* feeling rough and dry like leather. *Harvey on Consumptions.*  
 The priest on *skins* of off-rings takes his ease,  
 And nightly visions in his slumber sees. *Dryden's Æn.*  
 2. Hide; pelt; that which is taken from animals to make parchment or leather.  
 3. The body; the person.  
 We meet with many of these dangerous civilities, wherein 'tis hard for a man to save both his *skin* and his credit. *L'Estr.*  
**TO SKIN.** *v. a.* [from the noun.]  
 1. To flay; to strip or divest of the skin.  
 The beavers run to the door to make their escape, are there intangled in the nets, seized by the Indians, and immediately *skinned*. *Ellis's Voyage.*  
 2. To cover with the skin.  
 It will but *skin* and film the ulcerous place,  
 Whilst rank corruption, mining all within,  
 Infects unseen. *Shakespeare.*  
 Authority, though it err like others,  
 Has yet a kind of medicine in itself,  
 That *skins* the vice o' th' top. *Shakespeare's Measure for Measure.*  
 The wound was *skinned*; but the strength of his thigh was not restored. *Dryden.*  
 It only patches up and *skins* it over, but reaches not to the bottom of the sore. *Lake.*  
 The last stage of healing, or *skinning* over, is called cicatrization. *Sharp's Surgery.*  
 3. To cover superficially.  
 What I took for solid earth was only heaps of rubbish, *skinned* over with a covering of vegetables. *Addison.*  
**SKINK.** *n. f.* [precise, Saxon.]  
 1. Drink; any thing potable.  
 2. Pottage.  
 Scotch *skink*, which is a pottage of strong nourishment, is made with the knees and sinews of beef, but long boiled: jelly also of knuckles of veal. *Bacon's Nat. History.*  
**TO SKINK.** *v. n.* [precise, Saxon.] To serve drink. Both noun and verb are wholly obsolete.  
**SKINKER.** *n. f.* [from *skink*.] One that serves drink.  
 I give thee this pennyworth of fugar, clapt even now into my hand by an under *skinker*; one that never spake other English in his life, than eight shillings and six pence, and you are welcome, fir. *Shakespeare's Henry IV.*  
 Hang up all the poor hop-drinkers,  
 Cries old Sym, the king of *skinkers*. *Ben. Johnson.*  
 His mother took the cup the clown had fill'd:  
 The reconciler bowl went round the board,  
 Which, empty'd, the rude *skinker* fill restor'd. *Dryden.*  
**SKINNED.** *adj.* [from *skin*.] Having the nature of skin or leather's hard; callous.  
 When the ulcer becomes foul, and discharges a nasty ichor, the edges in process of time tuck in, and growing *skinned* and hard, give it the name of callous. *Sharp's Surgery.*  
**SKINNER.** *n. f.* [from *skin*.] A dealer in skins.  
**SKINNINESS.** *n. f.* [from *skinny*.] The quality of being skinny.  
**SKINNY.** *adj.* [from *skin*.] Consisting only of skin; wanting flesh.  
 Her choppy finger laying  
 Upon her *skinny* lips. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
 Least the asperity of these cartilages of the windpipe should hurt the gullet, which is tender, and of a *skinny* substance, these annular gristles are not made round; but where the gul-

# SKI

let touches the windpipe, there, to fill up the circle, is only a soft membrane, which may easily give way. *Roy on the Creation.*  
 His fingers meet  
 In *skinny* films, and shape his oary feet. *Addison's Ovid.*  
**TO SKIP.** *v. n.* [*scuttive*, Italian; *esquiver*, French.] I know not whether it may not come from *scapes*.  
 1. To fetch quick bounds; to pass by quick leaps; to bound lightly and joyfully.  
 Was not Israel a derision unto thee? Was he found among thieves? For since thou spakest of him, thou *skippedst* for joy. *Jer. xlviii. 27.*  
 The queen, bound with love's powerful charm,  
 Sat with Pigwigen arm in arm:  
 Her merry maids, that thought no harm,  
 About the room were *skipping*. *Drayton.*  
 At spur or switch no more he *skipt*,  
 Or mended pace, than Spaniard whipt. *Hudibras.*  
 The earth-born race  
 O'er ev'ry hill and verdant pasture stray,  
 Skip o'er the lawns, and by the rivers play. *Blackmore.*  
 John *skipped* from room to room, ran up stairs and down stairs, peeping into every cranny. *Arbutnot's Hist. of J. Bull.*  
 Thus each hand promotes the pleasing pain,  
 And quick sensations *skip* from vein to vein. *Pope's Dunciad.*  
 The lamb thy riot dooms to bleed to-day,  
 Had he thy reason, would he *skip* and play? *Pope.*  
 2. To pass without notice.  
 Pope Pius II. was wont to say, that the former popes did wisely to let the lawyers a-work to debate, whether the donation of Constantine the Great to Sylvester of St. Peter's patrimony were good or valid in law or no; the better to *skip* over the matter in fact, whether there was ever any such thing at all or no. *Bacon's Apophthegms.*  
 A gentleman made it a rule, in readings, to *skip* over all sentences where he spied a note of admiration at the end. *Swift.*  
**TO SKIP.** *v. a.* [*esquiver*, French.] To miss; to pass.  
 Let not thy sword *skip* one:  
 Pity not honour'd age for his white beard;  
 He is an usurer. *Shakespeare's Timon of Athens.*  
 Although to engage very far in such a metaphysical speculation were unfit, when I only endeavour to explicate fluidity, yet we dare not quite *skip* it over, lest we be accused of over-seeing it. *Boyle.*  
 They who have a mind to see the issue may *skip* these two chapters, and proceed to the following. *Burnet.*  
**SKIP.** *n. f.* [from the verb.] A light leap or bound.  
 He looked very curiously upon himself, sometimes fetching a little *skip*, as if he had said his strength had not yet forsaken him. *Sidney.*  
 You will make so large a *skip* as to cast yourself from the land into the water. *More's Antidote against Atheism.*  
**SKIPJACK.** *n. f.* [*skip* and *jack*.] An upstart.  
 The want of shame or brains does not presently entitle every little *skipjack* to the board's end in the cabinet. *L'Estr.*  
**SKIPKENNEL.** *n. f.* [*skip* and *kennel*.] A lackey; a footboy.  
**SKIPPER.** *n. f.* [*schipper*, Dutch.] A shipmaster or shipboy.  
 Are not you afraid of being drowned too? No, not I, says the *skipper*. *L'Estrange.*  
 No doubt you will return very much improved. — Yes, refined like a Dutch *skipper* from a whale-fishing. *Congreve.*  
**SKIPPET.** *n. f.* [Probably from *skiff*.] A small boat.  
 Upon the bank they sitting did espy  
 A dainty damsel, dressing of her hair,  
 By whom a little *skippet* floating did appear. *Fairy Queen.*  
**SKIRMISH.** *n. f.* [from *ys* and *earn*, Welsh, the shout of war: whence *ysgarm*, and *ysgarnes*, old British words. *Maes a new* 'sgarnes a *wman*, says an ancient writer. *Esquarmouche*, French.]  
 1. A slight fight: less than a set battle.  
 One battle, yes, a *skirmish* more there was  
 With adverse fortune fought by Cartimand;  
 Her subjects most revolt. *Philips's Briton.*  
 2. A contest; a contention.  
 There is a kind of merry war betwixt signior Benedick and her: they never meet but there's a *skirmish* of wit. *Shakespeare.*  
 These *skirmishes* expire not with the first propugners of the opinions: they perhaps began as single duellers; but then they soon have their partisans and abettors, who not only enhance, but intail the feud to posterity. *Decay of Piety.*  
**TO SKIRMISH.** *v. n.* [*esquarmouche*, French; from the noun.] To fight loosely; to fight in parties before or after the shock of the main battle.  
 Ready to charge, and to retire at will;  
 Though broken, scatter'd, fled, they *skirmish* still. *Fairfax.*  
 A gentleman volunteer, *skirmishing* with the enemy before Worcester, was run through his arm in the middle of the biceps with a sword, and shot with a musket-bullet in the same shoulder. *Wise's Surgery.*  
 I'll pass by the little *skirmishes* on either side. *Atterbury.*  
**SKIRMISHER.** *n. f.* [from *skirmish*.] He who *skirmishes*. *Ans.*  
**TO SKIRRE.** *v. a.* [This word seems to be derived from *scap*, Saxon, pure, clean; unless it shall be rather deduced from *sciglaw*.] To scour; to ramble over in order to clear.